



Catholic Conference of Ohio

Ohio House Finance Committee
Substitute House Bill 305
Interested Party/Written Testimony
Dec. 2, 2020

Good morning Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera and members of the House Finance Committee. My name is Larry Keough. I am an associate director for the Catholic Conference of Ohio and legislative advocate for Catholic schools.

We commend Speaker Cupp, Rep. Patterson and the School Funding Work Group for their tireless dedication and commitment to addressing the longstanding inadequacies in K-12 school funding that were highlighted in the Ohio Supreme Court's landmark case in *DeRolph v. State*.

HB 305 represents an opportunity for stakeholders representing the 1.7 million plus students in K-12 education to address funding inequities, including but not limited to bus transportation, gifted students, special needs students and ELL students.

This legislation lays the groundwork for public and nonpublic school leaders to collaborate on improving education for all God's children.

We anticipate these discussions as the General Assembly moves forward with policy and budgetary provisions during the lame duck session and beyond.

With that stated, we defer to those who are expert to address the specific inadequacies and inequities in public education. We will continue to offer recommendations that are within our area of expertise, such as school-choice programs, bus transportation and special needs education.

We look forward to working with each of you and all parties who are invested to improve K-12 education.